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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, NOVEMBER 2, 1999

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUC960111

Ex Parte: In the matter of
investigating whether Bell
Atlantic-Virginia, Inc. meets
the requirements of § 271 of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996

PRELIMINARY ORDER

On October 21, 1999, Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc. ("BA-VA"), filed a motion in this docket supporting initiation of third-party testing of its Operation Support Systems ("OSS"). As BA-VA notes in its motion, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act") requires that the Federal Communications Commission consult with this Commission in its review process under § 271 of the Act to determine whether a Bell Operating Company meets the requirements for approval to provide in-region interLATA telecommunications services. BA-VA seeks to demonstrate that it provides to Competitive Local Exchange Carriers ("CLECs") nondiscriminatory access to its OSS and that its systems are operationally ready and capable of handling reasonably foreseeable demand.

BA-VA specifically requests that the Commission hire KPMG Peat Marwick ("KPMG") to conduct a third-party test of its OSS in Virginia. According to BA-VA, KPMG was selected by the New York Public Service Commission, the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy to conduct third-party tests of Bell Atlantic's OSS in each of their respective jurisdictions. It is further indicated in the motion that the CLEC industry is supportive of the KPMG tests. BA-VA maintains that KPMG has the knowledge and experience to most efficiently and economically conduct a test in Virginia.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered this matter, is of the opinion that interested parties should have an opportunity to respond to and comment on BA-VA's motion.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) Responses and Comments to BA-VA's motion shall be filed on or before November 19, 1999.

(2) This matter is continued until further order of the Commission.